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| 09/487,675 | 01/20/2000 | Masaki Hanzawa | 7217/60612 | 3437 |

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EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2612

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DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/487,675

Applicant(s)

HANZAWA, MASAKI

Examiner

Timothy J Henn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-9,11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,9,11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 January 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Please note that the examiner of record has changed. All future correspondence should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose information is provided at the end of this office action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-9, 11 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference character(s) mentioned in the description: "main body unit 5" and "memory member 4" in figure 1 (see specification page 6) and "housing holder section 21" in figure 2 (see specification page 7). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cama et al. (US 5,907,354).

[claim 1]

In regard to claim 1, note that Cama et al. (hereinafter referred to as Cama) discloses an electronic equipment comprising: a main body unit for recording information on the memory member having a solid-state storage device (Figure 9, Item 60); a memory holder provided on the main body unit and having a terminal section for connection to a terminal of the memory member, the memory holder (Figure 9, cavity which holds Item 27 and door 68; c. 3, l. 59 - c. 4, l. 9) being adapted for detachably holding the memory member; a holder contain formed on an outer periphery of the main body unit for accommodating the memory holder therein (Figure 9, area encompassed by memory module 62); a holder operating mechanism for causing movement of the memory holder between a loading/unloading position (i.e. door 68 open) enabling loading/unloading of the memory member and a housing position for housing the

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memory holding in the holder container in such a manner as not to permit loading/unloading of the memory member (i.e. door 68 is closed), wherein the memory holder includes a locking mechanism (Figure 9; c. 4, ll. 3-8) for maintaining an electrical contact between the memory member loaded in the memory holder and the terminal section when the memory holder is moved from the housing position (i.e. door 68 is closed) to the loading/unloading position (i.e. door 68 is open), and the locking mechanism is adapted to enable the loading/unloading of the memory member from the memory holding by applying a release force thereon, and when the release force is applied to the locking mechanism, the electrical contact between the memory member and the terminal section is disconnected (i.e. the card is ejected; c. 3, ll. 31-44).

The office notes that in Cama the memory holder (defined as including the electronics module cavity and door 68) is movable between a first position (i.e. door 68 open allowing loading/unloading of the memory member and a second position (i.e. door 68 closed) which does not permit loading/unloading of the memory member. In claim 1 the memory holder operating mechanism is defined to move the memory holder between the loading/unloading position (while giving no further requirements on the memory holder within this position) and a housing position (defined as when the memory holder is within the holder container). It is noted that although the memory holder of Cama does not move out of the holder container in the loading/unloading position, claim 1 does not recite this limitation.

[claim 5]

In regard to claim 5, note that Cama discloses a main body unit including a cartridge holder for loadably/unloadably holding a recording medium cartridge carrying an information recording medium (e.g. electronics module cavity), the main body unit having an opening for causing the cartridge holder to face outwards (Figure 9) and a lid (Figure 9, Item 68) for opening and closing the opening, the memory holding and the holder container being mounted on the lid (Figure 9).

[claim 6]

In regard to claim 6, note that that Cama discloses a holder container which is formed at a mid portion on the outer peripheral surface of the main body unit (Figure 9; note that the cavity and door are both centered on the side of the camera).

[claim 11]

In regard to claim 11, note that Cama discloses electronic equipment wherein a major surface facing an exterior of the memory holder is formed substantially as a continuation to the outer periphery of the main body unit (Figure 9; The office notes that the door 68 is formed so as to continue the shape of the main body unit 60 when closed).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cama et al. (US 5,907,354).

[claim 9]

In regard to claim 9, note that Cama discloses all limitations except for a lock mechanism for restricting movement of the memory holder and a restriction-removing operating member for removing movement restrictions imposed by the lock member and wherein the restriction-removing operating member of the holder operating member is provided on the lid. However, it is well known in the art to provide locking members and restriction-removing (i.e. unlocking) members on lids such as the lid (Figure 9, Item 68) of the memory holder of Cama in order to ensure that the lid remains closed when the lid is not desired to be opened (Official Notice). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a locking member and restriction-removing member on the lid of Cama to ensure that the lid remains in the closed position when access to items beneath the lid is not desired.

[claim 12]

In regard to claim 12, note that Cama discloses all limitations except for a window formed in the memory holder for visually checking a presence of the memory member held in the memory holder. However, it is well known in the art to provide windows on memory holders in order to provide the user with visual verification of the loaded/unloaded state of the memory holder (Official Notice). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

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provide the memory holder of Cama with a lid to allow the user to visually verify whether or not a memory card has been loaded without the need to open the memory holder.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 7 and 8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[claim 7]

In regard to claim 7, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest electronic equipment as defined in claim 1 further comprising detection means for detecting whether the memory holder has been moved from the holder container.

[claim 8]

In regard to claim 8, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest electronic equipment as defined in claim 1 further comprising means for rotationally mounting the lid on the main body unit of the equipment and wherein the memory holder is rotationally mounted relative to the lid.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J Henn whose telephone number is (703) 305-8327. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJH
6/24/2004


WENDY R. GARBER
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